

James M. Sprouse

A True Story of a West Virginian



JAMES M. SPROUSE FAMILY — Jim and June Sprouse and their five children, left to right, Jeffrey, Andy, twin girls Sae'lly and Sherry, and Tracy Sprouse.

INTRODUCTION "Jim Sprouse" — Family Man, Lawyer, Soldier, Sports Figure, Political Leader, Fullbright Scholar, International Intelligence Agent, Citizen, TRUE WEST VIRGINIAN.

Numerous stories have appeared in West Virginia Newspapers concerning a young native of Mingo County, West Virginia, who many obviously want to be GOVERNOR OF WEST VIRGINIA.

WHO IS HE?

The following pages compiled by SPROUSE for GOVERNOR CLUB provide some of the answers.



ONE FORM OF RELAXATION at the Sprouse home is a family gathering around the piano for a songfest or to listen to sister Tracy play a tune.



JIM SPOUSE and Vice-President Hubert Humphrey exchange warm greetings during one of the VP's visits to West Virginia.



IT WAS HERE at St. Bonaventure College that Jim Sprouse learned from a priest friend that he had better concentrate on law and forget about his ambition—writing.



PFC. SPOUSE SERVED in the infantry during World War II and is a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.



JIM WAS a proud father of his first child ten years ago and today his fatherly pride numbers to five.



SKIING IS JUST ONE of the sports enjoyed by the Sprouse family. Jeffrey, June, Jim and Tracy enjoy this snow sport in the West Virginia mountains.



MISS BETH DI GREGORIO, past president of the Hancock County Federated Democratic Woman's Club honors Sprouse with an honorary membership the night he spoke before the group at Weirton.

EDITORIALS

CPYRGHT

William F. Tolbert
EDITOR
Williamson Daily News



JAMES M. SPROUSE

Harry Hoffman's
POLITICS
Charleston Gazette

SUPPORT FOR SPROUSE GROWING

While the 1968 general election is still more than a year distant, the political gristmill already is working overtime with speculations concerning possibilities, and especially in the gubernatorial contest.

To date there are several announced candidates for governor in 1968, but the compelling thought at the present time is that the most likely favorites—both Democrats and Republicans—still are sounding out the degree of support their candidacies might attract both in the primaries and general election.

At this writing, there is more than a remote possibility that a native Williamsonian—James M. Sprouse—could win the Democratic nomination next May as well as the general election in November and move into the Governor's Mansion in January 1969.

While Sprouse has made no definite commitments as to whether he will formally announce for the State's top political office, he has been busily engaged in a heavy schedule of speechmaking and participation in public ceremonials as well as sounding out the sentiment in behalf of his candidacy in all sections of the State and that he is deeply impressed by the reaction of both party leaders and voters is putting it mildly.

That Sprouse knows his way around in politics goes without saying and is demonstrated by the fact that he served as chairman of Hulett C. Smith's successful primary and general election campaign for governor in 1964 and since that time has been serving as chairman of the State Democratic Executive committee.

Support for Sprouse has been mushrooming ever since his name first was injected as a possibility in the 1968 campaign. He has strong support among county chairmen and members of the State Executive committee. At a recent meeting of the West Virginia Sheriff's Association, Sprouse received considerable encouragement and support for his likely candidacy. The fact that he hails from the Southern sector of West Virginia where the Democratic Party boasts overwhelming strength should enhance his chances even more. Recent soundings, however, show Sprouse is attracting major support in all areas and this in itself forcefully squelches any possible claim of provincialism.

As the senior partner in the Charleston law firm of Sprouse, McIntyre and Louderback, Sprouse has had close professional contact with both business and labor. He has served as counsel for the West Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and at the same time has represented business establishments in important legal matters. He is counsel for Lake Central Airlines among other businesses and organizations.

His personal background contains much to recommend him for the office of Governor. As a matter of fact, his life's story has all of the ingredients set forth in the Horatio Alger novels of the hero pulling himself up by his own bootstraps. Sprouse throughout his early life has had full knowledge of the everyday financial problems which plague so many in the State of West Virginia. He knows what it is like to be denied many of the opportunities enjoyed by other youth. A member of a poor but proud family, Sprouse overcame adversity to rise to successful heights through outstanding ability, initiative and determination.

A native of Williamson, Sprouse demonstrated his talent for leadership while a student at Williamson High School. He showed his physical prowess and perseverance by becoming a Golden Gloves boxing champion while a youth. He also won the lightweight boxing championship while serving in the U. S. Army.

Sprouse received his law degree from Columbia University in 1949, won a Fulbright scholarship and was in the first group to go to Europe. He studied international law at the University of Bordeaux and the University of Paris. He speaks French and German fluently and from 1951 to 1957 he worked for the CIA in this country and abroad. He received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart during service as an infantryman in the U. S. Army in Europe in World War II.

Well versed in international law, Sprouse was equipped to pursue his profession in lucrative areas of private practice in metropolitan sectors of the nation. It was his sense of pride and enthusiasm for his native state that prompted his return to the legal practice in West Virginia. His energy and enthusiasm in this respect are contagious and attract legions to his folds as staunch friends.

These staunch friends and supporters believe Sprouse is the embodiment of intelligence, awareness, honesty and youthful vigor so necessary for a successful tenure by a Governor of West Virginia. They are convinced that he possesses the political know-how and personal qualifications and leadership to carry West Virginia forward on the road to greater achievement for individuals at all levels of society. They wish him well if and when he decides to formally enter the race for this high political office.

More . . . from Harry Hamm

Still to be heard from is the likeable, fireball state Democratic chairman James Sprouse. Mr. Sprouse has been busy taking soundings around the state and most reports say his stock is on the rise. "Sprouse-for-Governor" clubs have been springing up in various sections of the state reminiscent of the way Governor Smith's campaign was launched. As state chairman of the Democratic party, Mr. Sprouse has been able to stay close to the party organizations in the counties and this should be of significant importance if he does decide to throw his hat in the ring.

SPROUSE LOOKS LIKE CANDIDATE

A lot of prospective candidates have been talked about for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1968, but few have been as active in their own behalf as James M. Sprouse, the 43-year-old Charleston lawyer who has been Democratic state chairman for the last three years.

Sprouse has visited about half the counties and has made contacts in a number of others. He's been up and down the Ohio Valley, from the far Northern Panhandle to Cabell and Wayne counties, and has spent some time in most of the southern coal counties. He has kept up the busy schedule of letter writing, telephoning, speech making and attending dinners, at the same time trying to keep up his law practice in Charleston.

Yet, Sprouse hasn't gotten up full steam and he is not an announced candidate. His busy schedule over the last two months has been confined largely to making soundings, probing in depth, and generally looking the situation over. He appears about ready to move into the second phase of his campaign, which will be a concentrated effort to tie down definite support in various sections.

Jim Sprouse is looking very much like a candidate for governor, and there are those who think he may already have made his decision to run. He said last month he was getting close to a definite decision but would not make a public announcement for sometime.

Also, there have been indications that Sprouse would not necessarily be guided by what Gov. Hulett C. Smith decides to do by way of administration support for a particular candidate in the Democratic primary. Sprouse was chairman of Smith's successful primary and general election campaigns for governor in 1964 and also his choice for state chairman, and naturally has a friendly relationship.

So far the Governor has given no indication of the man his administration will support, although there have been reports that he has narrowed the field down to a choice between Sprouse and Senate President Howard Carson of Fayetteville.

An incident that happened in connection with the state sheriffs' association meeting in Charleston this weekend may have served to give encourage-

ment to Sprouse and could be a factor in his political decision.

The outgoing president of the association, Sheriff Elmer E. Albaugh of Ohio County, is an avowed supporter of Atty. Gen. C. Donald Robertson, who has been running for governor since sometime in 1962 or 1963. The first vice president of the association, Sheriff John Protan of Boone County, is an avowed Sprouse supporter.

Protan normally would be expected to move up to the presidency, but a movement reportedly was started in the Sunday night preliminaries to have Albaugh held over for another term as president. Robertson was reported to be the power behind this move, but it didn't work—Protan was nominated for president and elected by acclamation. And, while Protan is said to have agreed not to use the association's name in behalf of Sprouse, there is no question about where he stands personally and this cannot help but be of political benefit to Sprouse if he makes the race. Likewise, it must be taken as a setback for Robertson.

ALREADY, ABOUT two dozen sheriffs are said to have indicated they are favorable to Sprouse, and he also sets well with county chairmen and members of the state executive committee by reason of his activity as state chairman. This could account for considerable organizational support, and Sprouse also has strong ties to organized labor by reason of his service as counsel for the West Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

A top Democratic political figure, asked why he leaned so strongly toward Sprouse, said it was because he had so much in his background that would make him an attractive candidate.

Sprouse, a native of Williamson, received his law degree from Columbia University in 1949, won a Fulbright Scholarship and used it to study international law at the University of Bordeaux and the University of Paris. He speaks French and German fluently, and from 1951 to 1957 he worked for the CIA in this country and abroad. He received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart during Army service in Europe in World War II.

"Jim Sprouse pulled himself up by his own bootstraps," said the aforementioned political leader, "and what he has done and what he has accomplished tells me a lot about his character. I think he is the kind of intelligent, knowledgeable, honest man the people of West Virginia would like to have an opportunity to elect as their governor."



SPROUSE FOR GOVERNOR CLUB

710½ Lee Street
Charleston, W. Va.

Dr. Benjamin Velesquez, M.D., Treas.



AFTER HE ASSISTED with a bill during a legislative session Sprouse is presented the pen Governor Hulett Smith used in signing it before West Virginia leaders and legislators.



SPOUSE WITH TWO former Governors, William C. Marland, left, and William Wallace Barron, center, at the Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner, prior to Governor Marland's death.

More . . .

A straw in the wind? Maybe. At a recent meeting of the State Sheriffs' Association a movement was started to re-elect Ohio County Sheriff Elmer Albaugh for another term as president. Albaugh is known as a supporter of Attorney General C. Donald Robertson in his unannounced bid for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination next year. But the sheriffs elected John Protan of Boone county as new president and Protan is a supporter of Democratic State Chairman James Sprouse. Sprouse is expected to throw his hat in the ring in the governor's race before the summer is out . . .

by Harry Hamm

The energetic, young Democratic State Chairman James Sprouse has been getting encouragement from many friends around the state who want him to throw his hat in the ring. Last week he admitted in Charleston that he is giving "serious consideration" to taking the plunge . . .

by Harry Hamm

Jim Sprouse the Democratic State Chairman who might be your next governor and I hope he is, sent me a bouquet the other day and it looked dandy flourishing on the dining room table alongside my has been coaxed to reconsider. He has done that and reports are he will be the first major contender to announce his candidacy . . .

by Don Daniels

I will mention that I spent some time with Jim Sprouse, the Democratic State Chairman and I wish that soft spoken little guy would run for something just so I could vote for him. He was in bed with pneumonia last week and his voice still sounds like a cement mixer but he was in there swinging all the way. It will probably automatically give him 10,000 enemies but I have to admit out loud, I like the guy . . .

by Don Daniels

At this time the winds have changed and Democratic Executive Chairman James Sprouse is back in the picture. Sprouse had made up his mind at one point to drop from contention but now has been coaxed to reconsider. He has done that and reports are he will be the first major contender to announce his candidacy . . .

by Charles E. Ryan

The heaviest ripple to date in the huge sea of potential Democratic Gubernatorial possibilities was made last week by James Sprouse, State Democratic Executive Chairman, who was voted a heavy favorite for the Governor's race by the Executive group.

That's a heavy measuring stick to shove down the throats of other potential candidates. To dismiss the vote lightly would be a mistake. Although Sprouse may be somewhat of a "boss" to the members of the committee, they are not controlled by him.

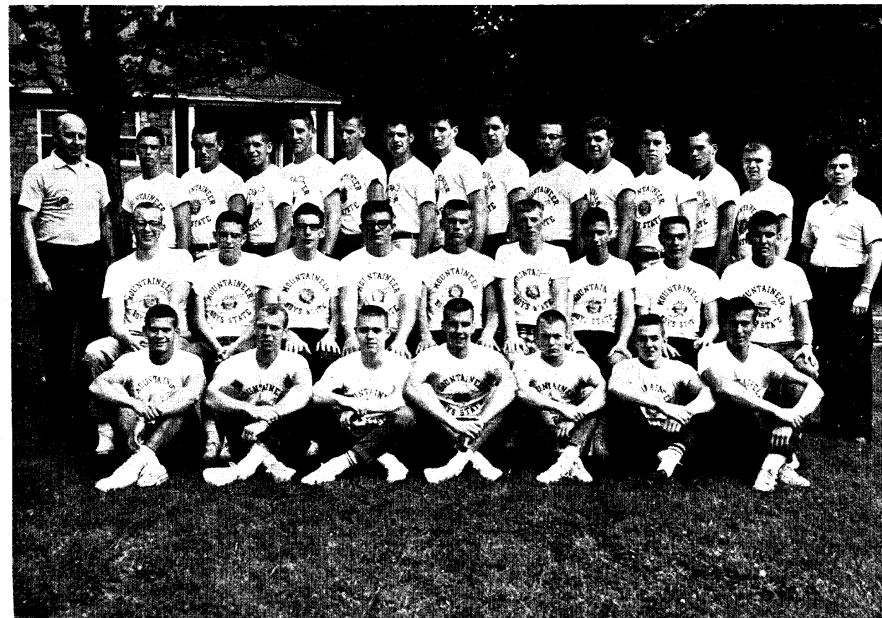
The vote on just who the committee members favor as a candidate for Governor came last week in Washington during a whirlwind tour of state congressional offices. Sprouse organized the trip to give the grass roots people some idea of the administration's position on politics. For those who think he was hunting for headlines, he did the same thing two years ago for county chairmen.

The poll of the committee was not a Sprouse idea. A Washington newspaperman conducted it and recorded the results. They show the other contenders—Barron, Robertson, Carson—receiving only one or two votes. Sprouse piled up a hefty 15. The 15 were not recorded as to geographical location but the number is large enough to warrant a supposition that Sprouse has support from all around the state . . .

by Charles E. Ryan



SPOUSE HAS BEEN referred to by newsmen throughout the State as one who possesses the Kennedy youthful vitality, ideas and imagination.



AMONG HIS MANY youth activities Sprouse, at extreme right, served as senior advisor of the Senate at Mountaineer Boys State.

Governorship May Go By Default

GERARD SHERRY, Editor

Morgantown Dominion News

The question of who will be the Democratic standard-bearer in the state for the gubernatorial election next year has got all the political pundits guessing.

The main difficulty lies in the fact that there is a dearth of talent in the state Democratic ranks. At least, if there is talent, it is hard to discern.

The one contender who might have given the party hope, State Chairman James Sprouse appears willing to quit because of a lack of support from the Statehouse's main inhabitants.

From all accounts we have learned Mr. Sprouse looked too much like someone willing to lead the party out of the sterile biddiness plaguing the top echelon of state government. Those who are entrenched do not wish to be disturbed unless they also are guaranteed further fruits of political victory.

For our part we feel Mr. Sprouse has all the qualities which go to make a governor. He's honest. He works hard. And he has the confidence of many of the party faithful all over the state.

The strikes against him seem to be that he's not a "yes" man for the Governor or anyone else. He's pro-

labor, and he is not adverse to criticizing big business. We say these are strikes against him for it would be true in relation to any person with these views aiming for support from the Governor and those close to the Executive Mansion.

It is not that the Governor is by any means anti-labor—he just doesn't want to alienate any group. The trouble is this is not how a strong governor should act. He shouldn't take stands and shouldn't worry if he feels in conscience he is doing what was right for the state.

None of the other Democratic hopefuls, who have so far shown interest in the governor's race, seem to be much different than Governor Smith. They are affable men, but hardly likely to rock a boat or stir a torpor.

This state needs strong leadership. We need a strong Democratic governor who will free the party from its inertia and from its talent for disunity. We may have to wait four years. We hope not, but it is entirely possible that the Republicans will put up a political figure who will be hard to beat. And with the current Democratic shuffling about, the governorship could be lost by default.

'Sprouse for Governor' Club In Ohio County; Sprouse Family At Summer Farm in Randolph

Elkins Inter-Mountain

The first "Sprouse for Governor" club in northern West Virginia has been formed in Ohio county.

Gray Williamson of West Liberty and James Dailer of Wheeling will be co-chairmen of the unit which will seek volunteer support in behalf of James M. Sprouse, chairman of the West Virginia State Democratic Executive Committee.

Sprouse has a summer home in Randolph county. With their five children, Sprouse and his wife arrived from Charleston a week ago to spend the summer and fall at their farm which adjoins Camp Pioneer near Beverly. He commutes to Charleston.

Williamson said he "considered it an honor and a privilege" to serve as co-chairman of the "Sprouse for Governor" organization in Ohio county.

"Jim Sprouse is a man for whom I have the highest regard and respect, and I pledged my every effort in his support. To me he is the embodiment of the intelligence, awareness, honesty, and youthful vigor that characterized our late President John F. Kennedy. He possesses qualities rare in an individual."

Pointing out that Sprouse is "an untiring worker and a born leader of men," Williamson said that the state Democratic Chairman "is marked by a keen sense of his state and in his

William O. Waller, Robert Reasbeck and Joe Duffy, all of Wheeling.

Sprouse, 43, was educated in Williamson public schools and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star while serving as a World War II infantryman. He received his law degree from Columbia University in 1949. Served as assistant counsel of the Displaced Persons Commission during the Truman Administration and for five years carried out domestic and overseas assignment for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sprouse began a highly successful law practice in Charleston in 1957 and became a volunteer worker for the Democratic party. He performed a variety of duties including the chairmanship of Gov. Hulett C. Smith's successful 1964 gubernatorial bid.

Although Sprouse has not announced he will be a candidate for governor, the first "Sprouse for governor club" was formed this week in Williamson, Sprouse's home town. The Ohio county unit becomes the second in the state.

During a poll this past spring, five of the 15 Democratic county chairmen who answered a Charleston Gazette questionnaire favored Sprouse as their party's gubernatorial nominee. Sprouse was the only person to receive more than two votes.

15 Favor Sprouse For Governor

State Democratic Chiefs Want Johnson Again

By HARRY ERNST
Gazette Washington Bureau
(Article in Part)

WASHINGTON—The war in Vietnam is hurting the Democratic party in West Virginia, but a majority of party leaders polled want President Johnson to run for re-election next year.

Those are the opinions of 34 members of the Democratic State Executive Committee from throughout West Virginia, who

Dem Leader, Children on Vacation Here



JAMES M. SPROUSE, who has been mentioned prominently as a Democratic candidate for Governor in the 1968 primary election, is shown with his five children at Oglebay Park where they are spending the weekend. Left to right are Jeff, 7; Sherry, 3; Sprouse; Shelly, 3; Tracy, 10; and Andy, 4.

Vacationing At Oglebay

Sprouse Debates Move As Governorship Hopeful

CPYRGHT

By DEBBY WOOD
News-Register Staff Writer

State Democratic Executive Committee Chairman James M. Sprouse is vacationing this weekend at Oglebay Park and thinking over his decision on whether he will be a candidate for governor in 1968.

Sprouse said on his arrival here, however, that he is not ready to make that decision. He indicated an announcement might be forthcoming in two weeks.

"I want to talk to various political figures in the state and get the opinions of the man on the street" before I definitely make up my mind," Sprouse declared.

But right now Sprouse, who is chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, holds the lead among the party candidates mentioned for the

gubernatorial post.

Five of 15 Democratic county chairmen in the state favor the Democratic party leader as their choice for the gubernatorial nomination.

Sprouse was the only one of the possible candidates to receive more than two votes.

One Democratic chairman said he had also polled the 10 members of his committee and that seven of them had voted in favor of Sprouse.

The party chairman and his five children arrived at Oglebay Park last evening and will remain there until Sunday. Mrs. Sprouse is in a hospital in Charleston recuperating from a slipped disc in her back.

Sprouse will return to Charleston soon and then come back here on Monday to address the Marshall County Young Democratic Club at the Mar-

shall County courthouse at 8 p.m.

While vacationing here, Sprouse is mixing business with pleasure.

He left early this morning to confer with Brooke County Democratic officials. Before his stay here is concluded, he hoped to confer with Democratic Party leaders throughout the Northern Panhandle area.

Commenting on the possibility of his candidacy, Sprouse declared, "This campaign started out almost by accident. Thus far, I have not been actively campaigning. I wanted to sit back and see what happened and let the strength manifest itself. And right now, things seem very hopeful."

The round of visits in Brooke, Hancock, Ohio and Marshall counties is designed "to see how things are shaping up from their point of view."

few here Tuesday for a glimpse of their federal government.

Fifteen of them also said they favor the committee chairman, James M. Sprouse of Charleston, to become the Democratic candidate for governor in 1968.

★ THESE WERE the questions asked members of the Democratic State Executive Committee and their answers:

★ Who do you now favor as the Democratic candidate for

governor next year?

Sprouse, 15; former Gov. Barron, three; Atty. Gen. C. Donald Robertson, three; Sen. Jennings Randolph, two; Rep. John M. Slack Jr., two; Rep. Ken Hechler, two; former Atty. Gen. John Fox, two; State Senate President Howard W. Carson, one; State Commerce Commissioner Angus E. Peyton, one.

(Two committee members listed either Sprouse or Hechler, three said they have no prefer-

ence and two didn't answer the question.)

★ If you had a choice, who would you prefer as the Democratic candidate for president next year—Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Robert Kennedy or someone else?

Johnson, 23; "someone else," one; Kennedy, five; Humphrey, one; Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., one; former Gov. George Wallace of Alabama, one; no preference, two.

Sprouse At 43, Potential Candidate For West Virginia's Highest Office Career of Dem's Energetic Chairman Reads Like James Bond Fiction

By HERB LITTLE
Charleston Press Writer

CHARLESTON (AP)—The biographical sketch which the graying but still collegiate-looking man handed across the desk might have been that of the hero of a spy novel.

It mixed elements of intellect and physical prowess such as novelists concoct for fictional characters like James Bond: Fullbright scholar, amateur boxing champion, overseas operative for the Central Intelligence Agency, decorated combat infantryman.

But the subject of the sketch was the man across the desk, not a character in a novel. This James was Sprouse, not Bond. James Marshall Sprouse, 43, is thinking very seriously of running for governor of West Virginia.

"I intend to make a decision within a very few days and will make it known to my associates," Sprouse told the interviewer in his Charleston law office.

He quickly added, however, that he will not make a public announcement for some time yet if he decides to run.

Next month Sprouse will have been West Virginia Democratic chairman three years. While the

job yields a broad acquaintance with party functionaries, it doesn't do much to implant the holder in the consciousness of the general public.

Lately Sprouse has been trying to fill this gap—"getting exposure," the politicians call it. He has been accepting speaking dates around the state and appearing on television interview shows.

On these visits he also talks privately with important local Democrats. He asks frankly how they would feel about a Sprouse candidacy in the primary next May.

"I've been very careful how- ever not to indicate positively that I am running for governor," Sprouse said.

"I am well aware of the individual effort it takes on their part once you get people involved in a campaign."

"I have no intention of getting in prematurely and then getting out of a campaign."

"Once I make an affirmative decision to run, I will be in the campaign until after election day."

The field Sprouse is surveying is wide open right now. The list of persons mentioned as possible seekers of the Democratic nomination for governor runs to nearly 20, but only one, state

legislator W. R. (Squibb) Wilson of Fairmont, has announced his candidacy.

The list includes such prominent party figures as ex-Gov. W. W. Barron, Atty. Gen. C. Donald Robertson, State Senate President Howard W. Carson and former Atty. Gen. John G. Fox. Lately the name of U. S. Sen. Jennings Randolph also has been mentioned in Democratic gubernatorial speculation.

When and if Gov. Hulett C. Smith, who cannot succeed himself, decides to support a particular Democrat for the nomination, the field of primary prospects will shrink abruptly.

But Sprouse indicated his own decision will not necessarily hinge on whether he is tapped as the state administration candidate.

Sprouse has strong ties to organized labor, growing out of his service as counsel for the West Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. He no longer does this work himself, although the law firm of which he is a member still represents the federation along with many vital areas.

Where does he stand in the political spectrum? One observer put it this way: "By West Virginia standards he's a liberal. In New York he'd probably be considered a middle-of-

the-roader."

He hasn't run for office before, but came up the party through the Young Democrat ranks. He is former YD state president. In 1964 he was chairman of Smith's successful primary and general election campaign for governor.

Sprouse once was the Golden Gloves bantamweight champion of West Virginia. In World War II Army service in Europe, during which he received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart while he was a scout for an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, he won the lightweight championship of the 104th Infantry Division.

He now carries 160 pounds on his 5-foot-6 frame and limits his boxing activity to teaching youngsters the sport at the YMCA. He also plays basketball there during his lunch hours.

Sprouse was born in Williamson. He attended St. Bonaventure College in Olean, N. Y., and received his law degree from Columbia University in 1949. He won a Fulbright scholarship and used it to study international law at the University of Bordeaux and the University of Paris. He speaks French and German fluently.

From 1951 to 1957 he worked

for the CIA in this country and abroad. His overseas CIA assignments took him to such places as Vienna, Berlin and Munich.

Sprouse, his wife June and their five children live in a new Charleston suburban development. Summers he packs them off to his 40-acre farm near Beverly in Randolph County, where he has "some pigs, a few calves, two sheep that are just about to have lambs, and one pony."

He is a Presbyterian and belongs to the usual assortment of fraternal and veterans organizations. His business and professional activities include service as West Virginia counsel and assistant corporate secretary for Lake Central Airlines.

"The primary reason that I am interested at all in being governor is my deep conviction that we must have leadership at this level with the single-minded purpose of imaginative service," Sprouse said.

"It's no secret that the world is walking away from West Virginia in many vital areas. Without getting into specifics at this early date, it is clear to me that the only answer for West Virginia is to be honest, sincere, bold, imaginative and aggressive."

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A Cheerful Young Man On A Mission

Dems 'Guider of Destiny' Wears New Look



SPOUSE FINALIZING PLANS for Demo Party meeting with aides.

By DON DANIELS

Wheeling News Register
(Article in Part)

When West Virginia Democrats kick off operation "Let's Get Elected" here today, the principal cog among the big wheels will be a Ronald Reagan-looking type with just faintly graying hair, boundless energy and some "realistic" ideas about politics.

The name is James M. Sprouse, the prototype of the Democrat's attempt for a "new look."

Sprouse is here to do the manual labor involved in presenting Governor Hulett Smith and Senator Jennings Randolph to the faithful and anyone else with a vote.

"We need young people in the party. New blood," the chairman of the State Democratic committee says and he has fol-

lowed his own philosophy by surrounding himself with much of the same. His advance coterie stationed at the Downtowner might pool their ages and not add up to Everett Ruess . . . who is a Republican anyhow.

Sprouse takes the attitude that party lines these days are not so clearly defined as in the times of the big "machines." He figures what you have to do now is "go out and get votes. Earn them."

James Sprouse and W. Va. Democratic Executive Committee Visit President at White House

CPYRIGHT Randolph Enterprise Review

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—State Democratic Chairman James M. Sprouse and members of the West Virginia Democratic Executive Committee have returned home from a two-day schedule of activities in the Nation's Capitol.

Highlights of the affair was a visit with President Lyndon B. Johnson in the Cabinet Room of the White House. The group was welcomed to the nation's executive mansion by the Nation's First Lady Ladybird Johnson.

Chairman Sprouse and several members of the committee also met with New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

A vote of the 34 members on the trip showed that 15 of them said they favor Sprouse to become the Democratic Candidate for Governor in 1968. And 22 think Republican Arch Moore, Jr., would be the toughest gubernatorial opponent the Repub-

licans could nominate.

Others who received votes for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1968 are: former Governor W. W. Barron, three; Attorney General C. Donald Robertson, three; Senator Jennings Randolph, two; Rep. John M. Slack, Jr., two; Rep. Ken Hechler, two; former Attorney General John Fox, two; State Senate President Howard W. Carson, one; State Commerce Commissioner Angus E. Peyton, one.

Two committee members listed either Sprouse or Hechler, three said that they have no preference and two didn't answer the question.

President Johnson led the choice for Democratic candidate for president next year with 23 votes. Senator R. F. Kennedy received five votes and one vote each went to Senator J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., and former Governor George Wallace of Alabama.

Classmate Cites His Record

"Sprouse For Governor Of W. Va. Club" Organized

CPYRIGHT Williamson Daily News

Pete Spano, a local insurance man, announced here today the formation of a "Sprouse for Governor of West Virginia Club."

The first organization of its kind was formed Sunday by Mingo County citizens to urge State Democratic Chairman James M. Sprouse to be a candidate for Governor in the 1968 election.

Spano, who was named president of the club, stated Sunday that "we want Jim Sprouse, whose hometown is Williamson, to know that everyone in Mingo County is behind him 100 per cent."

The new president was a classmate and a close personal friend of Sprouse's in Williamson High School.

In making the announcement Spano gave the following reasons for the organization:

"I am a businessman not a politician but we have known Jimmy Sprouse all of our life and we feel he would provide the answers for the economic and other problems of West Virginia. Jimmy came from a poor but proud family and when he was in school in Williamson his family was having their toughest time economically. Despite the lack of any financial resources at all Jimmy quickly became an outstanding leader at

school. He made the best grades with no big effort, he was president of our Hi-Y Club, Vice president of our class, Editor-in-Chief of the School annual and despite the fact that he had few necessities and luxuries and the advantages the other kids had he was voted the most popular boy in our class. He was a fine athlete and retained his humility with his honor of being a high school hero. The fact that he has become one of West Virginia's outstanding lawyers with a firm in Charleston, and a respected leader of the strongest political party in West Virginia, is a great tribute to the Democratic system in this country and in West Virginia."

He returned to Mingo County whenever he can and the thing everyone notices is that he is not a bit different now than when he was in high school. He thinks, feels and understands the problems of the average citizen of West Virginia because he was raised with them and knows first hand their hardships. All of us feel he would make a great Governor and we have formed this club to urge him to try for this high office and to help him if he decides to make the try. Anyone wishing to join us in boosting Sprouse may contact me at this number 235-3267."

Sprouse Backed For Governor By Boone Club

Charleston Gazette

MADISON—A Boone County "Sprouse For Governor Club" was formed here Wednesday night during a Democratic meeting at the courthouse.

The club was formed to urge the candidacy of James M. Sprouse, a Charleston lawyer and chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, for governor.

Named as co-chairmen of the organization were Marion Compton of Sylvester and Deputy Sheriff Tweel Browning of Madison.

A party spokesman said the meeting was attended by "about 50 influential Democrats."

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Sprouse Elected Airline Official

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (AP)—James M. Sprouse of Charleston, W. Va., has been elected assistant secretary of Lake Central Airlines, the corporation announced Saturday.

Sprouse is a Charleston lawyer and state chairman of the Democratic party in West Virginia.

Lake Central said Sprouse's new duties will not require that he leave Charleston.

Sprouse Holds Lead Among Democratic County Chiefs

Charleston Gazette
(Article in Part)

Five of 15 Democratic county chairmen who answered a Gazette questionnaire favored James M. Sprouse as their party's gubernatorial nominee. Sprouse was the only person to receive more than two votes.

In addition, one said he had polled the 10 members of his committee and that seven had voted for Sprouse. Atty. Gen. C. Donald Robertson received the other three votes.

One county chairman, who preferred Sprouse, said he thought sentiment of committees in the state is fairly evenly divided between Sprouse and Robertson.

"South of the Kanawha River you hear mostly Sprouse," he

said, "and north of it mostly Robertson."

He said that Sprouse and Robertson have an advantage on other candidates so far as the feeling of county chairmen is concerned.

"Jimmy has got to know them real well because he is chairman of the state executive committee. Don also knows them well because he's been campaigning them for the last two or three years."

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SPOUSE for
GOVERNOR CLUB
NOW!**

Sprouse Receives Standing Applause

West Virginians Can Meet Today's Challenge

Sprouse Well Received By Boone County Crowd

Coal Valley News

James M. Sprouse, State Democratic Chairman, told a crowd of more than 200 people here last Saturday night that "West Virginians can no longer sit back and watch the rest of the nation move ahead while we remain stagnant in the thinking of the 19th century."

Broadus Lorrison, president of Young Democrats presided, and introduced John Protan, County Democratic Chairman. Protan presented county officials including Judge K. K. Hall, who introduced the speaker, Mr. Sprouse.

Sprouse, who has been mentioned recently as one who is interested in running for Governor of West Virginia in the 1968 election, emphasized to the gathering at the Boone County Court House that it is now up to our people to carry the torch. "It is the responsibility of every man, woman and child in the Mountain State to join in a crusade of promoting Democratic progress," he compared the years of progressive movements under Democratic leadership as to those under a Republican administration.

Sponsored by the Boone County Young Democrat Club, those attending the meeting were elected officials, coal miners, professional people, housewives—and people from all walks of life.

Sprouse acknowledged that the warmth of the county citizens was very evident for him as they all listened very attentively as he pointed out the needs of West Virginia. He asked all those present to think positive and not negative for the good and the strength of the Democratic Party. He asked that they remind their friends and their neighbors to talk only of the good that has been done and to counteract the version of

such good by the opposition party.

Sprouse compared all the cities of W. Va. and the state as a whole to the chaotic uprisings in the other major cities and throughout the world, stating that West Virginians have a pride in their state, in their people and to themselves and we intend to keep this, he said.

The torch for the awareness of the needs of all the people of America and West Virginia was first lit by the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, the state chairman said, continuing that it became brighter here in West Virginia with the election of the late President John F. Kennedy and now the progressive programs of President Johnson. "The W. W. Barron and Hulett Smith administrations have offered for the people of West Virginia more independence and state and federal programs than ever before in the history of our state and we expect to keep it this way," stated Sprouse.

He concluded his talk by asking for all out support of the Democratic movement to Keep West Virginia Moving Ahead—so that our state would not succumb to the promises of self gain of the opposition party—so that they could not say West Virginians are complacent—so that they cannot say that we here in this great state are living in docile ignorance or apathy.

"This is my country and this is your country," said Sprouse "and it is up to us with all of our imaginative thinking to make West Virginia a truly great part of this Great Society."

Sprouse, who spoke gently and seriously, received a standing applause, which gave evidence of instant popularity as candidate for W. Va. Governor.

Sprouse Lectures Students

Morgantown Post

"The political system is stagnant in West Virginia. We must get knowledgeable people involved. We don't have this involvement in politics or even government now."

In this manner West Virginia Democratic Committee Chairman James M. Sprouse encouraged more participation by college graduates in the political workings of the state at a seminar Monday afternoon at the University Library.

Mr. Sprouse was greeted in the browsing room of the WVU Library with a "standing room only" crowd as approximately 100 students packed in to hear the Democratic leader. "I thought this was going to be a seminar not a lecture," he said.

Carrying on in his disapproval of non-participation in government, Mr. Sprouse said that voting in every election does not constitute participation. "We need active participation and involvement," he said. Earlier in the day, Mr. Sprouse had addressed a political science seminar and assailed what he called "stagnation" in student interest in the political process that guides state government.

"What we need is enlightened intellectual participation in things like politics," he said. Discussing some of the political problems of the state, Mr. Sprouse estimated voting fraud had been uncovered last year in eight counties. "We have to stamp out things like corruption. It's not a big problem but it is a problem."

More interest could be stimulated in colleges by requiring all students to take at least one political science course during their higher education he recommended.

CPYRGHT



James M. Sprouse

"What's Right With W. Va."

West Va. On Right Track, Sprouse Tells Rotarians

CPYRGHT

Williamson Daily News

James M. Sprouse, a prominent Charleston lawyer and former Williamson resident, in keeping with the observance of West Virginia's 104th birthday, yesterday spoke on "What's right about West Virginia" at the regular weekly meeting of the Williamson Rotary Club at the Mountaineer Hotel.

Sprouse, who has been mentioned as a possible candidate for governor in 1968, not only spoke of the Mountain State, but also heaped praise on the city of Williamson.

Citing his own experience, Sprouse stated that when he was attending Williamson High School he was "raised as much by the community as by his family."

"Some people don't realize what a prime example of democracy that Williamson is," he continued.

He spoke of the friendly atmosphere that lies herein, commending the way people of different religions and nationalities mingle happily.

Then the former Williamson High graduate turned his talk to the state as a whole. "Too often, national magazines point out only what is wrong with our state," he noted.

"But what they fail to tell and what we ought to hear is what's right," the personable Sprouse continued. "We don't have the fifth here in our state that they have in Chicago; we don't have the violence here that they have in Cincinnati and other major cities; and we don't have a divided city like they have in Berlin."

While touching upon the beauty of the state's many mountains, Sprouse followed through, stating, "People in West Virginia have a long way to go, but we're, in my opinion, on the right path."

"Whenever the subject of what you would like a place to be is dwelled upon too long, observers often say you're talking about Utopia," he stated.

"While this isn't completely true, it is true that we should strive to make West Virginia as close to our own personal Utopia as we possibly can," he related in closing.

Sprouse, who was introduced by program chairman John Moses, commended the city for its continuing efforts in seeking local improvements, although civic leaders "sometimes seem to face insurmountable problems."

He also stated he could foresee the day when Williamson would have a completely new downtown business section.



JAMES M. SPROUSE, second from left, appeared at a University Seminar Arnold, political science graduate student, Mr. Sprouse, Prof. Thomas M. Elefante, both political science majors.

Shown are (left to right) Thomas Arnold, Rodney Pyles and Jeffrey

Where The Action Must Be

CPYRGHT

Youth's Vital Role In Politics Stressed

Wheeling News Register

CPYRGHT
JON DANIELS
(Article In Part)

"The accent is on youth." That slogan was presented this morning to Wheeling College students by James M. Sprouse, dynamic and outspoken young chairman of the State Democratic Party.

In an interview prior to his guest lecture at the college Sprouse declined to predict who would be the next Democratic candidate for governor but he did say that the party must and

will start "at the ground floor" to rebuild its sometimes sagging fortunes.

"The time of the feudal chief in party politics is past," Sprouse told the political science class of Professor Roger Haigh. And he urged the students to become "active in politics no matter which party they prefer."

He said the power of special interest groups must be curbed and that the private citizen's role in politics is not now sufficient. "The weight of one company, one segment of the com-

munity should not be allowed to control, to overly influence the real will of the people.

Sprouse put heavy stress on the part young people, even those of non-voting age must play in politics. He urged them to "go out and work" for the party of their choice. To man the polls, to speak out, to drive cars at voting time but more than anything else to work "all year long, every year and not just during elections."

Sprouse, dark-haired and hard-eyed challenged the stu-

dents to carry the banner of their belief with wit, energy and intelligence. "The citizen's role in politics is not sufficient," he said, "because the private citizen now interests himself in politics only when he is confronted with an issue which affects him directly. The answer to that is for young people to get into politics all year long, not just at voting time."

He urged the Wheeling College students to discover "the guts of politics."

"We need," Sprouse said,

leadership. We need dynamic young people with clear thoughts and with energy. We need young people who will grow with the party and not those who simply grow old with the party. It matters not," Sprouse said, "that some of you are too young to vote. What matters is that you become aware of what confronts you, what confronts the nation and what confronts the State of West Virginia. What matters is that you take an alive interest, an energetic part in the operation of the state and the nation."

CPYRGHT

Sprouse—The Self Made Man

A West Virginian's Rise To Fame

Star Rises In Political Sky

By DON MARSH

Charleston Gazette

When James M. Sprouse came to Charleston seven years ago, he and two other lawyers, with whom he established a practice, had to reject a \$40 desk (with chairs) because it was too expensive.

Instead, they chose less ostentatious furniture, priced at \$30, and, temporarily abandoning the solemn dignity cultivated by young lawyers, helped erect the partitions that divided the room they'd jointly rented into separate offices.

"I REMEMBER that we had burlap drapes made," said Robert Douglas, one of the three. "We told each other that at least we wouldn't scare any clients away because we looked too prosperous."

"The first case we got involved a personal injury. We wanted a \$3,000 settlement and their lawyer offered \$2,850. A couple of days after the trial started, he offered the \$3,000. By then, we decided to go ahead with it and after five days the jury went out for 50 minutes and came back with a verdict of \$15,000."

"The hardest part of all was resisting the impulse to throw our papers in the air and jump up and down. We had to look as if \$15,000 verdicts were something that happened to us every day."

★
FROM THAT TIME, Sprouse's career has moved upward. His first office (early Warner Brothers: you can almost see Edward G. Robinson staggering in, clutching a stomach wound, saying "Get me my mouth-piece") has been replaced by an entire floor in another building, complete with paneling and wall-to-wall carpeting.

His income is at a level that would have dazzled his Mingo County forebearers and he recently was elected chairman of the state Democratic Executive Committee, a position that puts him in the vanguard of West Virginia politics.

Douglas, his old law partner said: "What's impressive about Jim is that everything he's achieved, he's earned himself. He came here without family or friends to help him establish a practice. His success is due to hard work and his own efforts. And it couldn't have happened to a nicer person."

★
SPOUSE, 43, is a compactly built man of less than average height. He has a slightly lopsided grin and a nose to match. Even though his full head of dark hair is beginning to turn gray, and his chin line is beginning to soften under the onslaught of years, there is something essentially boyish about the face.

His manner is unassuming. Douglas said, "When you first meet him, you think 'here's a country boy, not quite at ease in the city,' and you're dead wrong."

Sprouse's mind is coolly analytical and his background is unusually cosmopolitan. He is a former boxing champion, a former combat infantryman and—fluent in two languages—a former American spy.

He was born Dec. 3, 1923, at Williamson. His father was a painter and carpenter. His mother was a member of a pioneer Mingo County family. "My mother's folks were farmers, coal miners and politicians," he said. "It was a good county for politics. One of my uncles was named chief of police by a Democratic faction in Williamson and another man was appointed by a Republican faction. There was a shooting before it was settled. My uncle didn't get shot but he didn't get to be chief. It shows they took politics seriously."

★
AS A HIGH SCHOOL senior, he was a Golden Gloves boxing

champion in the state. He also won his Army division's championship in Europe.

Originally, he was an aviator. "I learned to fly a plane before I learned to drive a car," he said. "I was discharged from the military career as an infantryman."

He had attended St. Bonaventure College as a serviceman and when he was discharged (with a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and the rank of private first class) he re-enrolled.

"I wanted to be a writer. I took some stuff—some poetry and short stories—in school, I guess, but my best friend was a priest who was head of the English department."

"He and two or three others of us went on vacation to the Adirondack mountains and I took some stuff—some poetry and short stories—for him to read."

"He didn't say anything about it and on the way back I said, 'Father, did you read the material I left with you?' He said 'yes' and didn't say anything else. I waited a few minutes and said, 'Father, what did you think of it?'"

"He looked out the window and said, 'Jim, just how serious are you about this thing?' I said, 'Well, that's what I want to do.' He said, 'Take my advice, Jim, take up law.'"

★
SPOUSE GRADUATED from Columbia University's law school in 1949. He won a Fulbright Scholarship and was in the first group to go to Europe. He studied international law at the University of Bordeaux and the University of Paris.

In 1950, he worked with the Displaced Persons Commission and later joined a law firm in Charleston.

"One day I got this letter from the Central Intelligence Agency. It was certified mail and said 'destroy if not delivered.' They offered me a job. I conjured up visions of beautiful girls and the Orient Express but they'd probably heard I spoke French (he later learned German). Anyway, I went to work for them."

Sprouse was employed by CIA for more than five years. He was stationed in Washington part of the time and was an operations officer in Europe for the remainder.

"The experience was wonderful," he said. "I learned a lot of things. There are some of the ablest people in government working for CIA. But, finally, I got more and more the feeling that it was all pretty silly, for me at least. It was as if you lived in a neighborhood and spied on your neighbors."

"Of course, we have to have the CIA. It's one of the facts of life, like having the hydrogen bomb. But I decided it wasn't for me."

★
HE RETURNED to Charleston in 1957, opened the office with the burlap drapes, and entered politics. He lost an attempt to win nomination to the House of Delegates the next year but was invited to participate in the campaign.

After the election, he got a job as a legislative draftsman and, through the efforts of Miles Stanley, president of the West Virginia Labor Federation. Eventually, Stanley retained Sprouse as the federation's counsel.

At the same time, Sprouse continued in politics. He took an active role in Young Democratic Clubs' affairs, and worked with the Hulett-Smith campaign in 1960 when Smith ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. When Smith ran, won, the primary in 1964, Sprouse was his campaign chairman.

★
THROUGH SMITH'S efforts, Sprouse was appointed chairman of the state executive committee. The appointment was

well received although, in some circles, there was a question of his suitability because of his close identification with labor.

"I don't think it's valid," Sprouse said. "It's no secret that Miles and others in the federation asked me against taking the job, just as it's no secret that Smith wasn't their choice for the nomination."

He said he and Stanley were good friends, close personally, professionally and politically. "Of course I'll listen to his ideas. But I want to listen to everybody. It's obvious that labor isn't always right just as no person or group is always right."

He said he decided to join Smith because he respected him. "And I'm interested in politics. It is a worthwhile endeavor and more people should take an active role."

He said he thought Smith and other Democrats "are in very good shape for the fall election and he predicted the party would win most statewide offices."

"We have the natural edge in registration and Hulett and others on the ticket are very attractive candidates. Hulett, for example, should be able to pull Republican votes because he's been a businessman for so long. As a matter of fact, that's why some elements of labor have been so cool toward him."

He said the general tone of the campaign from the Democratic side would be continued economic recovery and expansion. "We'll run pretty much on the accomplishments of the state, and national administration."

★
BASED ON THE PRIMARY campaign, he said he assumed that corruption in state government would be a Republican theme.

"I don't think they'll get anywhere with it. First of all, they talk about 'rumors of graft and corruption' without ever really bringing anything out."

"Second, if there has been any wrong-doing, I feel that Hulett would be the first to clear it up. I certainly feel that way. My position is simple: 'When it comes to the administration of public affairs, monetarily or otherwise, the greatest responsibility is required.'"

"It's my feeling that a person who abuses a public trust is not really deserving of much mercy and I don't think anybody—a politician or anyone else—owes it to himself or to his party to protect him."

★
HE SAID HE WAS optimistic the state's Democratic congressional seats would be retained and he predicted that President Johnson would easily carry the state.

"I think the President has been able to retain all the good will that people felt for President Kennedy and to expand on it through his own personality. I don't think it makes much difference who runs against him. I don't believe either Goldwater or Scranton could attract many votes from him."

Sprouse said after the campaign ends, he's going to take a less active role in politics. "I have absolutely no ambition to hold an elective office. I'm going to practice law and raise my family."

He's married to the former June Burt whom he met while both were working in Washington. ("We had a real bureaucratic courtship.") They have five children.

In spite of his disclaimer of political ambition, those who know him aren't so sure.

As one of them pointed out, he's young, hard working and ambitious.

"Furthermore, could he miss? He's been a boxer, an infantryman, a spy and a lawyer. What better qualifications for public office in West Virginia are there?"

What's Going On In Charleston

By CHARLES E. RYAN

Wetzel Democrat Capitol Correspondent

CHARLESTON—The heaviest ripple to date in the huge sea of potential Democratic gubernatorial possibilities was made last week by James Sprouse, State Democratic Executive Chairman, was voted a heavy favorite for the Governor's race by the Executive group.

"That's a heavy measuring stick to shove down the throats of other potential candidates. To dismiss the vote lightly would be a mistake. Although Sprouse may be somewhat of a 'boss' to the members of the committee, they are not controlled by him."

The vote on just who the committee members favor as a candidate for Governor came last week in Washington during a whirlwind tour of state congressional offices. Sprouse organized the trip to give the grass roots people some idea of the administration's position on politics. For those who think he was hunting for headlines, he did the same thing two years ago for county chairmen.

THE POLL of the committee was not a Sprouse idea. A Washington newspaperman conducted it and recorded the results. They show the other contenders — Barron, Robertson, Carson — receiving only one or two votes. Sprouse piled up a

several skeletons in the closet. Attorney General C. Donald Robertson is running in any case but he cannot hope to receive the administration backing. Senator Howard Carson, a fine legislator and highly capable man, lacks the force and vitality to be a good candidate. Public relations men—those that have conducted campaigns—say they'd have a tough time selling Carson to the voting public.

Sprouse has something West Virginians have long wanted in a Governor; he is made up of tough convictions, honest character, practical politics and rapid brilliance. He looks like the kind of a man for whom any Democrat could go the distance.

★
FEW KNOW the inner workings of Mr. Sprouse. It's hard to discern the political and philosophical beliefs of the man that has been mapping political strategy. However, it can be assumed that Sprouse is in some degree responsible for the liberal actions of the present administration. He is connected with labor, serving as counsel for the State Labor Federation. He knows industry, serving as a business attorney in Charleston for several years.

In any case, Sprouse will have ample time to let his public know where and how he stands on the issues. Unless some strings are pulled and yanked, there will be more than a few Democrats seeking the nomination.

SPOUSE FOR GOVERNOR CLUB

710½ Lee Street
Charleston, W. Va.

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hefty 15. The 15 were not recorded as to geographical location but the number is large enough to warrant a supposition that Sprouse has support from all around the state.

Looking over the crop, Sprouse stands out well. Former Governor W. W. Barron has

tion in what could be a wide open primary. The current administration will undoubtedly have to focus on one person to limit that primary to a two-man race at best. When the door is slammed and the decision is at hand, the name Sprouse should carry heavy importance.

Letter From Charleston

By CHARLES E. RYAN

CPYRIGHT Union News Capitol Correspondent

The freshest face to appear on the scene in the last week is that of Democratic State Chairman James Sprouse who says he is interested in running for governor. Nay, more than interested, he indicates he wants to run. Sprouse, who likes the ideals but recoils from the realities of political life, is the man that organized the Smith campaign and is largely responsible for the "togetherness" Democrats have. He came up from humble surroundings and now is one of the state's most successful attorneys. He's tough by way of having been in investigatory work for the federal government and he's sharp.

Endorsement of either Sprouse or Carson would mean Democrats would be endorsing one of the finest servants the state has had. Carson has led the State Senate from a "me-too" body of the 1950's to the pace-maker of the 1960's. He remained quiet on some really important issues too long during the past legislative session, speaking up only when it was too late to save the measure but not too late to place Carson in the widely publicized stance of pumping for the legislation. But, be that as it may, Carson has still performed admirably and has lost financially at home to do so.

Sprouse is of a similar nature. He has the advantage of knowing the organization workers throughout the state and has earned their respect and confidence. If anyone is similar to Bobby Kennedy in West Virginia, it would have to be Jim Sprouse.